

General Assembly January Session, 2015

**Proposed Bill No. 306** LCO No. **2075** \*02075\*

Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN Introduced by:

SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OMBUDSMAN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to designate an independent ombudsman appointed by the <u>Program and Review & Investigations Committee after a public hearing on qualifications and public testimony. The ombudsman to receive and review complaints and grievances from children under the care and custody of the Department of Children and Families and will serve for a period of two years. The ombudsman shall maintain a record of complaints including the description of any investigation, findings,</u>

recommendations and agency responses that shall be made available to the Program and Review & Investigation

Committee and to the public quarterly, and the Child

Advocate and, when appropriate. (remove) the Connecticut

Juvenile Training School advisory group. The Ombudsman will

report directly to Program and Review & Investigations

Committee. The public may petition for hearing for removal

after a year.

## Statement of Purpose:

To establish an independent (*remove*) Department of Children and Families ombudsman to give children in the care and custody of the (*remove*) department State an avenue to have any complaints or grievances heard, reviewed and addressed.